

SC476868

Registered provider: Cherish Children's Care Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a private children's home that is registered to care for up to four children who may have learning disabilities and social or emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, there were three children living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2024.

Inspection date: 20 August 2025

Date of last inspection: 13 May 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The registered manager was absent at the time of the inspection. The deputy manager and the operations manager supported the inspection.

Children and staff share positive and trusting relationships. One child said, 'The staff are all amazing.'

Staff support children to attend routine health appointments. When children refuse to attend, the reason for this is explored with them and they are encouraged to understand why health appointments are important.

Regular direct work and key-worker sessions with children support them to understand how to keep themselves safe and to discuss their feelings and emotions. Staff cover topics that are associated to the children's individual needs and vulnerabilities. In the main, this is conversational and takes place across the whole staff team. However, when needed, it is completed in response to a significant event and is targeted to a specific topic.

The manager and staff have taken suitable action in response to children being involved in relationships together. They have worked sensitively and carefully with children and their placing authorities. This has enabled them to make considered and balanced decisions about the care planning for children, ensuring there are detailed safety plans in place for staff to follow.

Staff have worked with children to promote positive and healthy relationships. When it was deemed it was no longer suitable for children to remain living together, they worked with the placing authority and children to make informed decisions about one child's move from the home and to ensure that the best interests of all children living in the home had been considered.

Staff have responded suitably to significant incidents such as substance misuse and fire setting behaviours. Children are supported to engage with external professionals, such as the drug and alcohol support service and the fire service, to enable children to understand and respond to risks.

When it has been necessary to impose consequences because of children's actions or behaviours, they are reasonable and proportionate. However, the manager does not always review the measures to ensure their effectiveness and to ensure that they are fair and balanced.

Staff follow children's plans and procedures when a child goes missing from the home. Staff search for children and encourage them to return as quickly as possible. Following their return, staff show professional curiosity to find out where they have

been and who they have been with during their absence from the home. This is shared with relevant professionals.

Support plans and risk assessments do not always include clear guidelines and strategies for staff. They do not always include up-to-date information following changes to children's care needs. This requirement will remain in place from the last inspection.

When it has been necessary to physically hold a child, it has been reasonable and proportionate. The manager has completed an overview of the incident and reviewed the effectiveness of the measure. All relevant professionals have been notified.

Since the last inspection, there have been some changes to the management oversight of the running of the home. New monitoring and auditing systems have been put in place; however, they are not yet embedded and therefore their effectiveness is not yet evident. This requirement will remain in place from the last inspection. In addition to this, the independent visitor does not regularly view children's bedrooms or obtain feedback from key people, such as children, staff and families, to enable them to assess effectively the impact of the quality of care on children.

There was no record of practice-related supervisions taking place regularly since the last inspection. This limits the manager's ability to support staff development and address any areas for improvement.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/05/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
21/05/2024	Full	Good
03/05/2023	Full	Good
03/05/2022	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(h))	2 October 2025
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v))	2 October 2025

Specifically, the registered person must ensure that support plans and risk assessments include clear, relevant and up-to-date information to care for children.	
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b))	2 October 2025
When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires; and to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (2)(a)(b))	2 October 2025
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(vii))	2 October 2025

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC476868

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Cherish Children's Care Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 8a, Skyways Commercial Campus, Amy Johnson Way, Blackpool FY4 3RS

Responsible individual: Alexandra Wood

Registered manager: Marc Kenyon

Inspector

Katie Tomlinson, Social Care Inspector

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